

Seasonal Flower Arranging: Fill Your Home with Blooms, Branches, and Foraged Materials All Year Round

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This lavishly photographed book from renowned floral designer Ariella Chezar provides step-by-step instructions for 39 seasonal floral arrangements and projects that celebrate the splendor of flowers, the bounty of the changing seasons, and the wild beauty of nature in your home.

Just as fruits and vegetables taste best when they are harvested locally and seasonally, flowers that are picked close to home and at their peak reflect a true connection to time and place. Nature does not deliver its harvest all at once--each season has its stars and Ariella Chezar, author of *The Flower Workshop*, shows you how to make the most of them. *Seasonal Flower Arranging* follows Mother Nature's lead to create dazzling arrangements from the distinctive gifts of the changing seasons, from a charming spring bouquet for Mother's Day to a bold garland for a summer wedding, and from a bounteous Thanksgiving table to a wintery holiday wreath. There are arrangements for seasonal holidays, special occasions, or just everyday life featuring tulips, roses, peonies, dahlias, and other flowers that are easily found at farmers' markets, local shops, or grown in your own backyard. The book includes detailed instructions on how to re-create 39 floral designs, plus the inspiration and techniques to allow you to create your own original art out of nature.

ARIELLA CHEZAR is the author of *The Flower Workshop* and *Flowers for the Table* and a master floral designer who has appeared in numerous magazines, including *O*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and *Real Simple*. She is an instructor and artistic director at FlowerSchool New York, and has designed flower arrangements for the White House. Read more about her work at ariellaflowers.com.

JULIE MICHAELS coauthored *The Flower Workshop*, is a former editor for the *Boston Globe*, and has written for the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and more. I am a natural-born forager. As often as I can, I will harvest the foliage I use in my arrangements from within ten miles of my location. I've hunted camellias in South Carolina, jasmine in northern California, and mock orange on route to a wedding in New York City. My rules for foraging are straightforward. If a plant is invasive, or growing on the side of the road (think grapevine or Queen Anne's lace), I'll happily do some "civic pruning." If what I'm looking for is on someone's property, I'll knock and ask permission politely, even offering to pay for my finds. Often, the homeowner is willing, even delighted, to make a deal. Because I believe in the value and the pleasure of growing your own, I've included a section in this book on how to turn your garden into a source for your own flower arranging. You'll find suggestions for perennial and annual flowers that are easy to grow, and you'll find a list of woody shrubs that will flourish in many a backyard. As with my last book, *The Flower Workshop*, I've included detailed instructions on how to recreate the thirty-nine floral designs included in this book. But don't be a slave to recipes. You should consider my creations as inspiration for your own. If you understand my philosophy of using tone-on-tone colors, if you look for texture and variety in your foliage, and if you learn to forage in your own backyard, you'll come away with a point of view that can be applied to any occasion. However ephemeral, I see each arrangement I compose as a reflection of the world around me. I use the same color theory and sense of proportion in assembling a bouquet that an artist would in painting a watercolor. The great joy of my profession is that I get to immerse myself in the beauty of nature. I hope this book will inspire you to do the same.

In creating seasonal flower arrangements, time and place are your first considerations. A tiny vase of muscari surely announces the spring, just as summer means roses in abundance. The dahlia is autumn's queen, and winter begs for berries and pine when Christmas is in the air. As to place, look around you. If you live in the South, magnolias and crape myrtle are your gifts. If you dwell in more northern climes, it's lilacs and apple blossoms that signal your geography. If your home is in California, lucky you. Chances are there's jasmine growing wild in your own backyard. Speaking of backyards, those of us who are fortunate enough to have them can often grow our own flower arrangements. On pages 30-38, I've provided a list of flowers that will flourish in a well-tended plot. If gardening is not your thing, find a nearby flower farmer. Most farmers' markets make sure to host flower growers who gather their blossoms in the early morning and sell them on the same day. What can be easier or more inspiring than that?

Whenever I'm on location for a workshop, I visit local plant nurseries to take advantage of whatever they have in bloom. This offers a twofold benefit: I can clip blossoms at their peak for my arrangements, then plant what remains to see it bloom again next season. If you have no access to a local grower, there's always the supermarket or, in some cities, the corner store. I am often amazed at the variety of blossoms available right next to the spinach and broccoli. I've seen more and more of these flowers labeled "American Grown," which is heartening. But many are grown in South America, which accounts for their relatively low cost and seasonal variety. There's nothing wrong with a dozen tulips coming home with your weekly groceries. But for readers who would like to anchor those blossoms in a sense of place, I suggest you look around. It's foliage, more than anything that defines the worlds we live in. For example, I know my witch hazel blooms in early March, just about the time tulips are coming into the market. I often trim some branches and, when paired with just the right shade of yellow tulip, I have something personal, and local, to light up my dinner table. Last autumn, I bought champagne-colored carnations at the store and then while taking a walk, I spotted some golden fall leaves that complemented their color perfectly. The combination became the basis of my Cascades of Gold arrangement on page 150. I always grow sugar snap peas in my garden, an easy and early summer crop. Since they appear at the same time my "Festiva Maxima" peonies bloom, those pea vines, dripping with fruit, become the foliage that takes a simple arrangement and makes it spectacular. Add a few branches of mock orange culled from a neighbor's shrub (you trade them for some peonies), and you bring the whole arrangement back to home base.

Other Books

Everlastings, Everlastings is a celebration of the life of flowers, showcasing the ethereal beauty of dried flowers. Bex Partridge takes you on a journey, starting with practical advice on how to pick flowers both at your home and outdoors, with in-depth descriptions of the many methods of drying blooms, seed heads and foliage, before sharing her favourite ways to style with dried flowers in the home as well as wearable items such as floral crowns and hair clips. The main section of the book features over 20 projects to try at home, all accompanied with beautiful photography. Suitable for both those that have never worked with dried flowers before and the seasoned professionals, the projects span many levels of experience. Bex shares ideas on how to capture the memories and moments of special days, through the gathering and preserving of flowers, to be treasured

for years to come. She also shares her knowledge of the ecological benefits of dried flowers, as well as chapters on foraging and thoughts on the meditative benefits of working with dried flowers. Filled with stunning imagery that Bex has become known for online, Everlastings presents a modern take on an age-old craft.

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